

## Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Elaboration for Informative/Explanatory Performance Task Full Writes

Grades 3-8, High School

### **Definition of Elaboration**

Elaboration is the process of developing ideas by providing supporting details. These details (e.g., facts, sensory details, definitions, examples, anecdotes, scenarios, descriptions, quotations, etc.) are suitably explained and connected. A writer elaborates on his or her ideas so that a reader will understand more clearly what he or she is saying. Thoughtful elaboration is guided by the purpose for the writing and the needs of the audience.

### **Levels of Elaboration**

**Listed support/elaboration:** A list of ideas that support the focus or idea. This list can easily be reordered without changing or confusing the meaning of the text.

**General layered Elaboration:** A sentence-to-sentence progression of ideas/points, possible examples, and explanations that further develops and supports the focus or main idea. Source-based evidence, if present, may be in the form of general or imprecise references. Re-ordering of the text might sometimes impair the connection of ideas.

**Specific layered Elaboration:** A sentence-to-sentence progression of ideas/points, possible examples, and explanations that specifically develops and supports the focus and main idea using precise language. A writer integrates specific and relevant source-based evidences—facts and details—into his or her explanation. Re-ordering of the text would often impair the connection of ideas.

### **Some Informative Approaches**

- Specific purpose-specific vocabulary
- Statistics
- Ideas or points /suitably explained and elaborated
- Description
- Definition
- Process/Procedure
- Examples (which could include scenarios or anecdotes)

**Note: forms/genres** (e.g., essays, speeches, letters, magazine articles, website articles, etc.) affect elaboration.

